

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y P R E S S B U L L E T I N

No. 24

Tel-Aviv, 15th August, 1948

1)) THE DAY THAT PASSED.

("Mivrak")

The 9th of Av, 5708, could have been a day unequalled in the history of Israel and unparalleled in that of the world.

On that day warriors of Israel could have scaled the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem and taken it by storm. On that day the ranks of the enemy, shut up in its walls, were full of nervous apprehension. No need to say what fighting spirit our soldiers would have evinced, had they only been given that day the signal to advance.

Just a few hundred metres away from our lines the Wailing Wall stood waiting in its desolation. The day of the destruction of the first Temple was waiting. The day of the destruction of the second Temple and of Betar was also waiting. Those ill-fated days were waiting to be relieved of their mourning. But the signal was never given.

Were there any military reasons for not giving the order, we would preserve silence. Military plans cannot be jeopardised, nor lives of soldiers risked, for the sake of the realisation of a dream or miracle - the reconquest of the Mount of the Temple on the very day it was destroyed.

But there were no military considerations. Every Jew, as well as the enemy and the "neutrals", are aware that it is within our power to liberate the Old City (the abortive attack on the eve of the truce is no proof to the contrary: whatever was its real objective, it was not aimed at conquest).

A historic opportunity, at an hour when millions of hearts united by the same yearning were beating like one, was not missed because of military considerations.

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Our boys in the army are coming into their manhood, but the leaders of Israel are still far away from it. On the eve of the very day that could have been a turning point in our history, they submitted to the Security Council a request to fix for them, for Israel, the date on which to start war.

Behind their act of daring, their heroic demand, there are still hiding trembling and wavering shadows of the past, fearful of their own boldness.

They cannot understand that it would have been much simpler for us to fix the time limit, to tell the enemy that they had so much time in which either to withdraw or to accept the peace terms and to tell the Security Council that it had as many days in which to show what it was worth.

But the evil spirits of yesterday are still chaining all manifestations of courage and impeding the awakening of political understanding.

So the day that could be great, that was destined to be great, was allowed to pass without anything happening.

We are still manning the lines, waiting for Arab provocations. We are still sitting in offices, waiting for U. N. discussions and decisions.

Bernadotte started thinking about a time limit; he mentioned six weeks.

The great day passed, leaving us in the same position as before.

2) FRIENDSHIP V. ALLIANCE.

("Mivrah". 13.8.48)

The United States representative arrived yesterday in Eret-Israel.

Four days earlier Tel-Aviv had given a hearty welcome to the Soviet Envoy. There is a great difference between the welcomes given to these two.

We did not welcome the Soviet Envoy because of himself. He is a complete stranger to us. We have no idea whether he likes Jews, has any pro-Zionist sentiment or not. His name wakes up no associations in us. We welcomed him as a representative of

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the great country that took our side on the political issue and gave us a substantial aid in the war. His activities here are not going to be an outcome of our affection to him. He is going to represent here the interests of his state, which, as it was so plainly and clearly formulated by the Soviet representative in the U.N.O. and daily reiterated by the Soviet press and radio, happen to coincide with ours.

In a striking contrast, the personality of the U. S. representative excites considerable interest. The name of James MacDonald is well known. He is a friend of the Jewish people, a pro-Zionist and a staunch supporter of the Jewish state. All this is fine, but to be quite frank, we prefer the Soviet Envoy. To be candid, we prefer an entirely unknown man, who represents a clear stand, to a well-known man, who represents a vague and contradictory attitude.

The U. S. Representative will probably gain considerable popularity in connection with minor affairs, as well as by his speeches and promises made during parties and banquets, although his fine words are not likely to be backed by as fine a policy. Personally he has every chance to win our friendship and admiration, but it is not his personality that will decide major political issues. These will be decided by the imperialist interests of United States, in disregard of and in contradiction to the U. S. representative's good will pronouncements.

Therefore we warn the Jewish people not to be carried away by personal feelings, nor to be captivated by friendly declarations we are about to hear. We have had our fill of American declarations, nor have we forgotten the declarations of British MacDonalds and Churchills. The British were somewhat slow with their declarations; this time we shall be probably treated to an American tempo.

Friendship is possible with persons. Alliance is possible with nations only.

3)) MAY OUR ENEMIES REMAIN IMPLACABLE. ("Mivrak", 12.8.48)

The Near East Broadcasting Station is a British station broadcasting in Arabic. For many years it was operating from Jaffa, when somebody's hand had seized Imperialism by the throat, Clayton's voice was stifled in Jaffa. When a hundred thousand British withdrew and a much larger number of Arabs had to flee, the N.E.B.S. sought refuge in Cyprus. (We can almost see the day when the N.E.B.S. staff will again be busy packing. At that

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time the Inspector General of the Cyprus/will be perhaps our old friend, Col. Gray, who will have accomplished his mission in Malaya as successfully as in Palestine.)

Yesterday this station broadcast a talk on the situation in Eretz-Israel. The commentator deplored the lack of unity on the part of Arabs, attributing to it their military set-backs. He was of the opinion that the Arabs would have finally to agree to the existence of a small Jewish state. Such a compromise would be preferable to the continuation of the war, especially as, as the commentator consoled himself and his listeners, this state would be short-lived.

No reasons for this having been given, we may only guess whether the commentator believed that the small state would succumb to internal difficulties, arising out of absence of a "Lebensraum" or lack of room for settlement, or he expected it to fall as easy prey to a better prepared and surprise attack by the surrounding Arab states.

Whatever the reasons, we accept this British assumption without reservation.

We believe that was the cunning advice the British gave the Arabs nine months ago. At that time, by agreeing to a small Jewish state, the Arabs could have easily obtained additional territorial concessions from Ben-Gurion. The small state would have been doomed to a slow degeneration until it became ripe for the Arab sword. For had this state come into being as a result of a U. N. decision and an Arab approval thereof, its leaders would have given little thought to the formation of an adequate armed force, placing an implicit faith, with the simplicity and stupidity reminiscent of the Balfour Declaration era, in a mere slip of paper.

But we have to thank our enemies for opening the eyes of the Jews. It has been their implacable and uncompromising hate that simply forced on the Jews the necessity of creating an army, of revising the question of frontiers from the strategic viewpoint and made them suddenly to realize the fact that Jerusalem is the security centre of the country.

Yes, we accept the British assumption that a small Jewish state would be short-lived, but we differ from them in the inferences. They say: the Arabs must agree to such a state. We say: the Jews must reject such a state.

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The reality has already effectively rejected the narrow boundaries and, with the aid of necessity, of the Jewish army and, to a large extent, with the aid of the stupid villainy of both our enemies and their advisers, is pushing them wider and wider.

May our enemies remain implacable.